

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Final notes for the 03 October 2017 Willamette Fish Facility Design Group meeting.

The meeting was held in the HDC Conference Room at Block 300 US Army Corps of Engineers in Portland, OR. In attendance:

Last name	First Name	Agency	Email
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On the phone: Monzyk, Pierce, Richards, Spear and Ziller.

**Meeting Purpose:**

Finalize previous meeting notes. Provide an update on status of active design projects. Discuss Cougar Dam downstream passage construction effects, and NEPA for Cougar and Detroit downstream passage projects.

1. September meeting minutes are pending; all comments/edits are due by 10 October.
2. All documents can be found at:  
[http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\\_Coordination/Willamette%20FPT/](http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette%20FPT/)

3. Current project status and upcoming report review schedule.
  - 3.1. Fall Creek Adult Facility – Construction is going well. Getting power to the new construction has been an ongoing issue but is now resolved. The facility went out of service for the season 28 September so that the contractor to get in to work.
  - 3.2. Foster – The contract was awarded for the new fish weir. The new weir should be delivered in Mid-February and the RM& E study starting in March.
  - 3.3. Cougar – The 60% DDR is being reviewed internally and will go to BPA for review soon. The regional review will be in November. The DDR is expected to be completed in the spring. Jeremy Britton will take over for Tarbox while out on maternity leave. The PDT will give an overview of the 60% at the NOV meeting.
  - 3.4. Detroit – The three DDRs are still on-going. The Weir Box DDR 30% has been reviewed internally and will go to BPA for review soon. The regional review will be in Mid-October. The outstanding EDR comments have not yet been responded to. The 60% DDRs for the Weir Box and Temp Control in December. The AE contract for the floating screen structure has been awarded. The Detroit passage criteria meeting with COE, NOAA and BPA has been rescheduled for next week but the exact date is being worked out.
4. Cougar DSP construction effects analysis and NEPA determination presentation: The construction schedule was presented. The contract will be awarded in April 2020. The initial drawdown of the reservoir would start on 3/1/21 and take one month. The full drawdown will take six months starting on 4/1/21. During the full drawdown, the temperature control tower modifications to connect the FSS, the mooring construction and the rock removal for the FSS would take place. Most of the construction for the FSS will be conducted offsite at The Slide Creek Campground. A coffer dam near the shore line will be built to construct in the dry but then float the structure into place. Some work on the tower can continue above the water line. The blasting rock removal is a big step and requires the drawdown. COE is closely coordinating with the campground for the NEPA impacts. The engineers feel very confident that the work can be accomplished in one season so that multiple drawdowns are not necessary. A one season requirement will be in the contract. The proposal is to drawdown to elevation 1450. This is the same elevation used for the WCT construction. Due to previous work, the COE found that below elev. 1450, the bank starts to slough off and sediment transfer is high but above 1450 did not have these issues. There will not be any power production during the drawdown. **ACTION: Spear needs to double check that no power production will not cause any significant issues under NEPA for BPA.** The Corps' NEPA team is looking at potential impacts to listed species resulting from the lack of temperature control and increased TDG during the drawdown. The Corps' ran models to look at the thermal barrier to spawning adults and high temperature effects on eggs. Three elevations (1400, 1450 and 1470) were modeled for potential mitigation measures. In June, all elevations had temperatures that were below target for spawning adults. Although this may present a

thermal barrier to the fish facility, the Corps does not consider this a significant impact because those adults would be returned to the main stem. In September and October, the temperatures would be higher than the target potentially causing egg mortality or early emergence. The elevation 1400 simulation was closer to the temperature target than the 1450 simulation, but the Corps believes the sediment impacts at the lower elevation would outweigh the temperature impact. The simulation of temperatures was modeled holding the pool at the lowered elevation for the whole year not just during the timeframe. Actual temperatures during the 2004 drawdown were included in the graph. Temperatures at Cougar follow the inflow due to the surface collection. **ACTION: Buccola will explain why the temperature model held the pool elevation level for a whole year and not just during the six month of drawdown.** The temperatures for all three elevations were below 16°C temp during the spawning months so the Corps' NEPA team was not concerned about egg mortality due to temperatures. The Corps' team reviewed actual temperatures at Vida (RM16.5 of the McKenzie) in 2004 and found only one short duration peak above 16°C. In 2004, the TCT was not in operation and this was a hot, dry year. The Corps' team did a comparison of temperatures before and after the TCT and confirmed that the temperatures are better with the tower. Emergence timing was calculated based on the temperatures and was found to be better than pre-tower conditions. Using both model and actual data, the Corps predicts emergence timing will be three weeks to 3 days early. **The Corps' NEPA team concluded that an EA would be adequate under NEPA and that a full EIS would not be required.** Burchfield concurred that an EA instead of an EIS would be acceptable. However, NOAA needs to further review that the assumptions made on the impacts/take of this activity are covered under the current Bi Op. The timeframe needed to review this information is not known. NOAA will respond within a week. The 90% DDR is due in the spring (April). Hudson asked what the plan is if the assumption that sediment won't transfer at 1450 doesn't hold true. The culvert for Brush Creek might need additional erosion control but otherwise the team is fairly confident about the sediment impacts because the construction for the trash rack went down to 1450 in 2016 without any sediment impacts. At a previous meeting, USFWS concurred that EA will be sufficient but Hudson will double check to make sure. When the TCT was built, the work didn't go exactly to schedule which ended up mudding the river during the peak of the recreational season. Opening day for the recreational season is 22 April. The drawdown should be concluded 3 weeks earlier which should give enough time to clear the reservoir. The method of dropping the pool level will be very important.

5. Detroit DSP public outreach and NEPA analysis: Propose EIS level NEPA. This project may require a full or partial drawdown for as long as two years. There are concerns about the high negative impacts to the economy, sediment mobilization and minimum required flows. Unlike Cougar, there hasn't been any other construction to compare drawdown impacts. Four alternatives were presented - a full drawdown, partial drawdown, a coffer

dam (building in the dry) and building underwater. Specifics of the alternatives have not been discussed yet. The third alternative may not be feasible since the reservoir is about 200 feet deep. Alternative 4 working under water may have a high cost due to extensive divers. There are major concerns for the project on water quality impacts including sediment transfer, temperature, TDG, Blue green algae, and contaminants; impacts to the required minimum flows/water supply and listed species impacts to CH and ST. **The Corps' NEPA team concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary.** To lower the pool, the project would use the lower ROs, which are below the drawdown level. USFWS had no comment because there are no bull trout in this area. NOAA concurred that an EIS is necessary. USFWS suggests reaching out to local fishing groups about the short term impacts that will achieve great benefits in the long run. Public engagement will need to be robust. The team has already come up with a communication and engagement plan that is under internal review. The plan will include techniques like creating a web page and holding public targeted stakeholder meetings. The COE would like representatives from all the partners to come to stakeholder meetings to show support for this project. The Grand Ronde Tribe should be included too. Janes presented two timelines for the NEPA scoping and public engagement. The first is a more condensed timeline but the second runs into bad weather and holiday season. The public meetings are usually held in Salem and in Mill City. The City of Detroit asked the COE to attend the city council meeting. A doodle poll about dates needs to be sent out soon because calendars fill up quickly. The public meetings will be an open house style not formal presentations. Oregon Water Resources and the US Forest Service should be on the list.

6. Next Steps

- a. The next WFFDWG is November 7<sup>th</sup> and the 60% Cougar DDR review will be presented.